



Water Wisely

**WATER CONSERVATION STARTS
IN YOUR BACKYARD**

CONSERVE

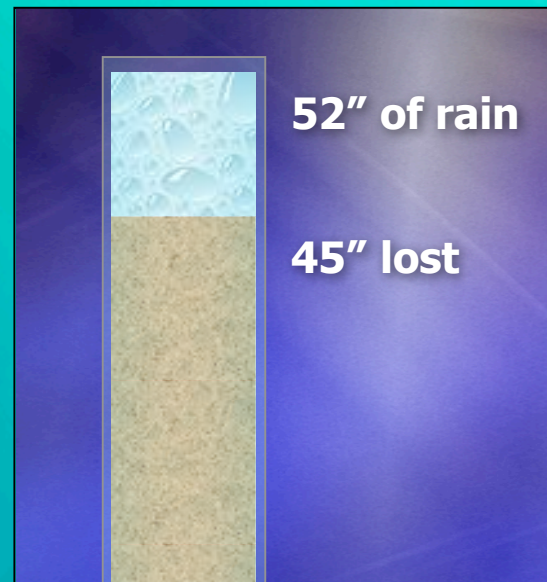
Life depends on water

- **Nature's Water Cycle**



Sunshine State...or Water State?

- Average of 52 inches of rain per year
- Almost 45 inches "lost" to evaporation and transpiration



Two Seasons...Wet & Dry

70% of annual rain falls during summer

- Replenishes lakes and underground aquifers



Two Seasons...Wet & Dry

Highest demands during dry winter/spring

- **Tourists**
- **Seasonal Residents**
- **Food Crops**



Year-Round Water Conservation

Benefits

- Reduces wasteful habits
- Smart thing to do & saves money, too
- Helps stretch ample wet season water supplies through drier months
- Helps avoid seasonal water shortage mandatory restrictions



Know the Guidelines for your area

- **NOTE:** Many local governments have year-round ordinances in place prohibiting daytime watering
- It is important that you learn your day/times for watering

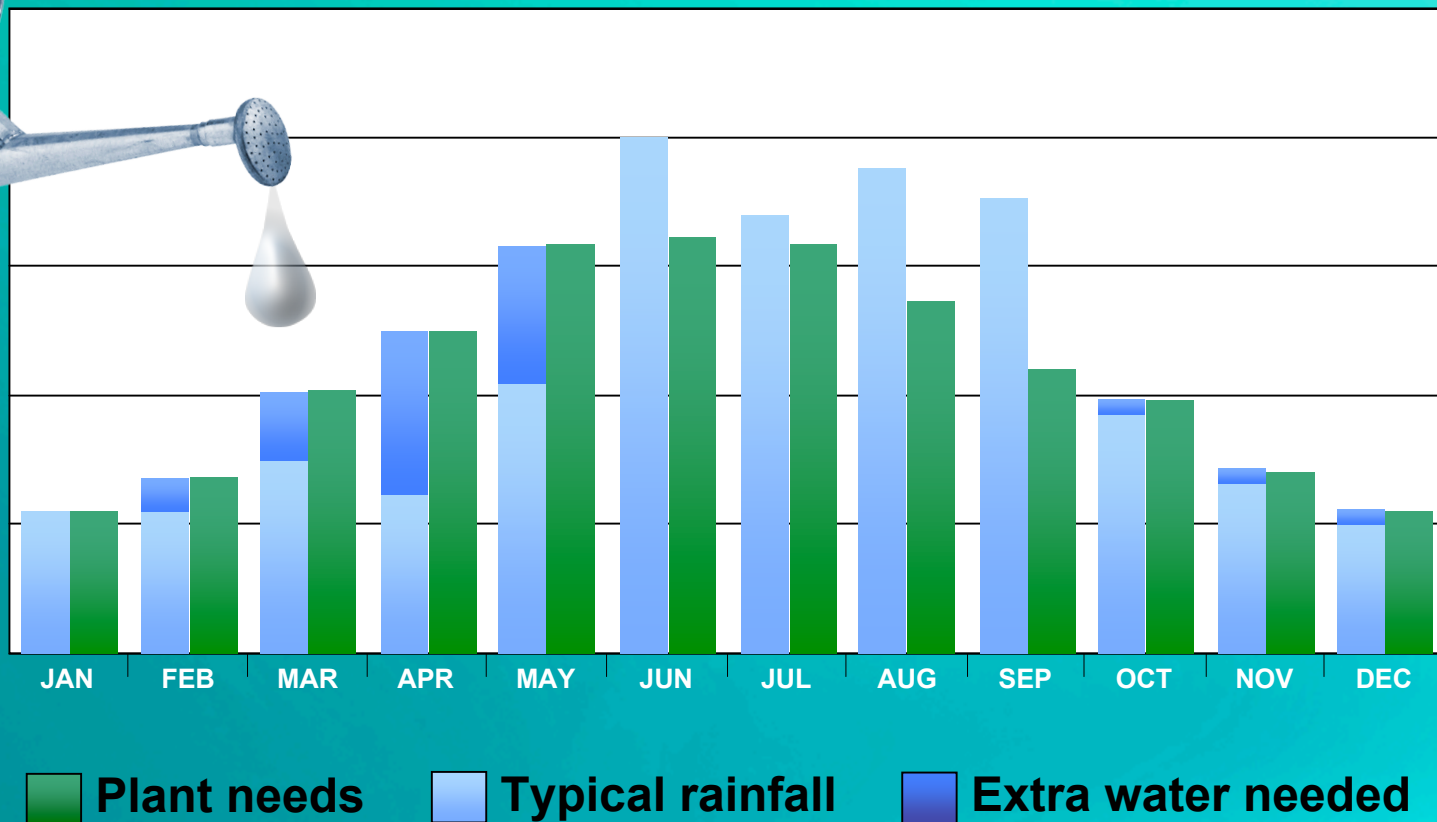
Contact your
local government
for specifics

*Follow YOUR
local
Ordinance*



How much water does your lawn really need?

Seasonal rainfall typically provides enough water, except during height of dry season



What a Waste!

- **Watering your lawn every other day for 15-30 minutes adds up to 7 feet of water per year MORE than what your grass needs to stay green and healthy**



Synchronize your sprinkling schedule with nature



Prevent OVERWATERING

- Use a rain switch on automatic systems
- Set automatic timer based on plant needs
 - Nov – Feb: 1 day a week
 - Mar – Oct: 3 days a week
- Rain switch adjusts watering schedule for you

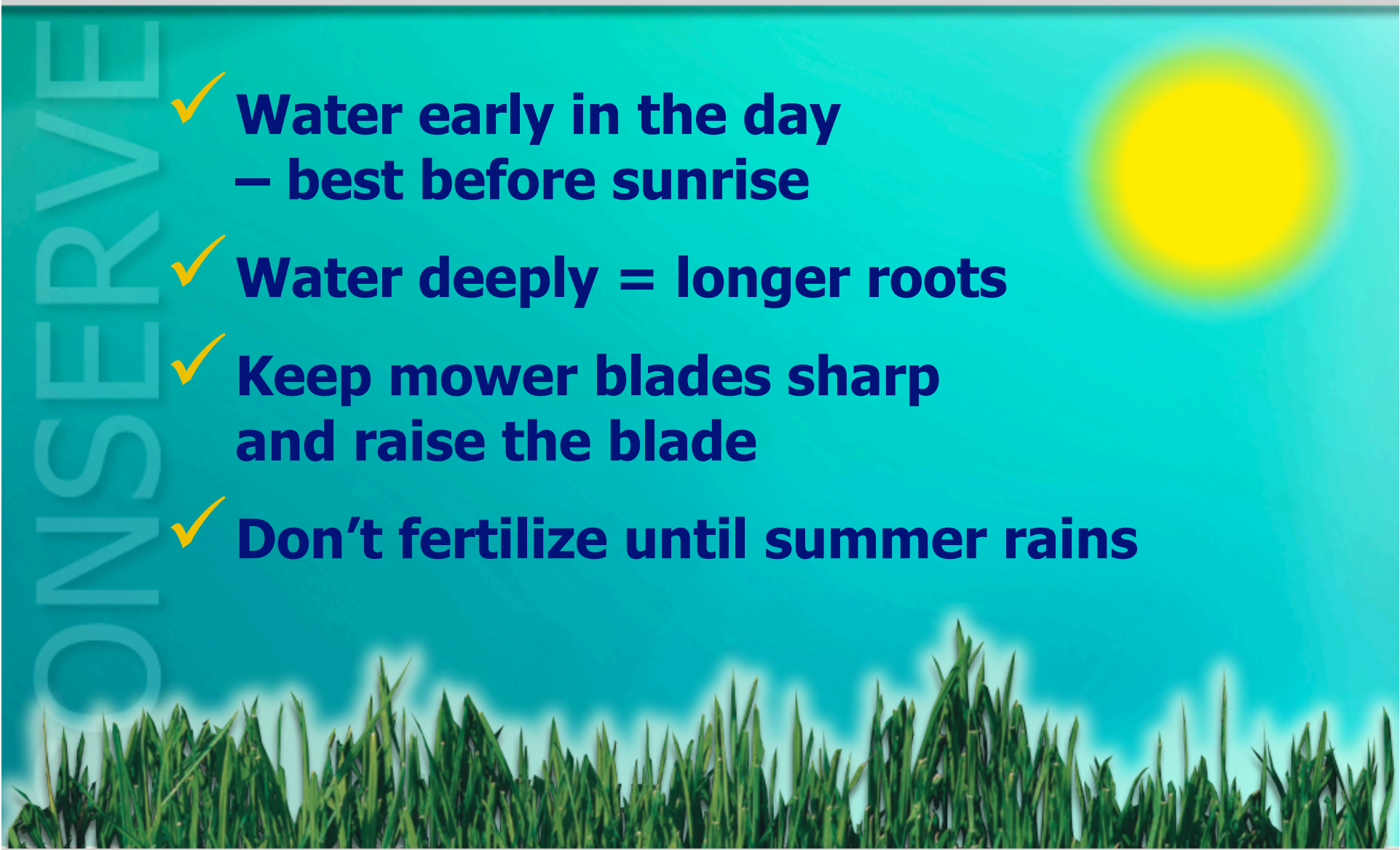
CONSERVE

Synchronize your sprinkling schedule with nature

Prevent OVERWATERING

- **Without a rain switch, water only on wilt**
- **Turn off automatic timer**
- **Operate system manually / use garden hose**
 - **Do not water immediately before, during or after it rains**
 - **Water only areas that show signs of stress**
 - **When footprints remain visible in the grass**
 - **When grass blades begin to curl**
 - **When color changes from green to blue-gray**

Other tips to help drought-proof your lawn

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- ✓ **Water early in the day
– best before sunrise**
 - ✓ **Water deeply = longer roots**
 - ✓ **Keep mower blades sharp
and raise the blade**
 - ✓ **Don't fertilize until summer rains**

No Pain...Lots of Gain



- **It's easy to reduce your water use**
- **Change your habits:**
 - **Turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth or rinsing vegetables**
 - **Take shorter showers**
 - **Install low-flow toilets/showerheads**
 - **Don't use toilet as a waste basket**
 - **Wash full laundry and dish loads**
 - **Repair leaky fixtures**

No Pain...Lots of Gain



Do the Math...

- One drop per second from a leaky faucet =
2,700 gallons per year!
- In a city of 10,000 homes =
27 MILLION gallons!!!

Show me the Money!



Water Savings Incentive Program (Water SIP)

- Cooperative 50/50 funding up to \$50,000
- Technology-based water conservation projects

YOU can make a difference

For more tips and funding information
visit www.sfwmd.gov or
call us toll-free in Florida at
1-800-662-8876

